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October 14, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski,
The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker,
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn,
The Honorable Michael L. Copps, and
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Broadband Industry Practices Docket No (07-52)

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

We have some concerns about the Federal Communications Commission's recent public statements and the FCC's planned actions regarding network neutrality during your October 22 open meeting. The National Minority Supplier Council remains especially concerned about the impact of your proposed actions on our 3,500 corporate and more than 15,000 minority owned businesses that are part of our vast national and regional organizations' membership.

During these difficult economic times, the President's Administration and his appointees have aggressively advocated for recovery and reinvestment funding and programs aimed at spurring economic growth and renewed American prosperity. Our minority business owners appreciate the exemplary record of progress that the Administration has amassed in less than one year.

Unfortunately, we feel that public statements like Chairman Genachowski's address to the Brookings Institution on September 21 where he stated the FCC's goal to "ensure the Internet remains a free and open platform that promotes innovation, investment, competition, and users' interests" are possibly directly countered and challenged by the FCC's contemporary effort to codify and enforce so-called network neutrality for wireline and wireless networks.

The most significant source of investment and American jobs associated with the Internet are not application developers or content providers. In fact, the minority men and women among our membership who are employed in the area of

network design, network development and network construction have the most at stake should you proceed with the net neutrality framework the Chairman and the FCC are presently advocating.

While NMSDC, as a 501 c 3 does not lobby, we would raise the following question the hope they would provide illumination and consideration of the best course of action that would benefit our minority communities and the country:

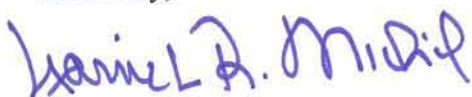
- Would regulations currently under consideration harm or support greater minority business participation?
- Does network neutrality benefit those already in the system to the detriment of those interested in entering it?
- Does this issue of network neutrality present an unfair or undue burden on minority own businesses currently in the system?
- At the end of the day, will these proposed regulations lead to more proportional representation/participation by all segments of our society that would have the skills and ability to participate?

We agree that your push for universal broadband access is a noble goal, and just want to ensure the path you have chosen to achieve that goal will not cost our nation—and minority owned businesses, in particular—far too much. Again, we are only raising what we think are prudent and thoughtful questions to make absolutely sure all points have been considered in your deliberations since the ripple effect of network neutrality would reach far across America and the business supply chains.

We are ready and willing to support and assist in any positive activities and efforts to promote broader access and opportunity and would applaud the commission for those efforts. We respectfully ask the Commission to focus its attention on positive ways we can collectively move our country forward.

Net neutrality is too important to the future of the country to not try every way possible to do it right the first time. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,



Harriet R. Michel
President
NMSDC